

The State of the Shelter



© Robin Purcell Photograph

By Kol Medina
Executive Director

It's been an amazing year at the Wildlife Shelter. We've treated a record (for us) 700 patients, given over 40 live-animal educational presentations to over 4,000 kids and adults, responded to nearly 1,500 phone calls, and provided unique volunteer opportunities to over 70 people.

By far, this has been our busiest and most successful year ever.

The annually-increasing growth in demand for our services requires an expansion of our capacity. With generous community support, we've opened a new administrative building this year: The Carney-Cargill Office Building. This has provided greater administrative space as well as greater hospital space. And we are now beginning the process of raising the \$500,000 needed to build a flight cage and waterfowl enclosure. Also, we've expanded our education program with the addition of a new barred owl. See page four for details about this owl.

In the coming years, our greatest challenge will be raising the operating funds that we'll need to pay our current staff and hire additional staff.

None of this would be possible without support from our community, from you. Over 85% of our funding is donations from individuals. This is your wildlife hospital and education center. Thank you for saving wild lives!

View from the Perch



By Mike Pratt, Director of Wildlife Services

Wildlife viewing is often associated with the spring and summer but the fall and winter months also offer great opportunities to view the wildlife around us.

In December large numbers of bald eagles begin to arrive at the Skagit River. This is a fantastic opportunity to observe and

photograph eagles of all ages, in one area, performing natural behaviors. In many areas, great horned owls begin to nest in December and can be heard vocally at night. Barred owls are also very vocal in the winter months and can often be seen in the daytime hours hunting for food.

Your backyard bird feeder provides a great opportunity to observe winter bird species and squirrels. You can also help biologists understand how birds are faring amid unprecedented environmental challenges by participating in Audubon's Christmas Bird Count and in the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Deer are very active in the fall due to rutting season. Winter also brings northern owl visitors such as the snowy owl and great grey owl, both of which can be seen during hours. Winter months provide great opportunities to compare winter behaviors to the spring and summer behaviors.

On the cautious side, be watchful for wildlife on roads, especially at night. Wild animals are very active in the winter months looking for food, and hunting may cause animals to run into roads during daylight hours.

So, this fall and winter I hope that you will brave the cold and elements and enjoy the wild animals around us.



WILDLIFE HOSPITAL
& EDUCATION CENTER

West Sound Wildlife Shelter strives to provide compassionate rehabilitation services to injured, orphaned, and sick wild animals, assure their safe release, and promote their protection through public outreach, education, and involvement.

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saving
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Saving Wild Lives is a triannual publication of West Sound Wildlife Shelter. The articles and information contained herein are provided for the education and entertainment of our members and readers. While we make every effort to check the accuracy of the facts, stories, and advice in this newsletter, no guarantee of accuracy or remedy is implied or expressed.

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Coexisting with Wildlife

Barred Owl - *Strix Varia*

Basic Facts

Barred owls are one of the larger owls in this area. On average, they range in size from 17 to 22 inches, have a 39 - 43 inch wingspan, and weigh 1.5 to 2 pounds. Unlike most other large owls in this area, they have brown eyes (as opposed to yellow).

These owls have been found to live up to ten years in the wild and 23 years in captivity.

They are possibly the most common owl in this area, and they are often out when it's light. So, if you've seen a large owl during the day, it was probably a barred owl.

Distribution and habitat

Breeding habitat is dense woods across Canada, the eastern United States and South to Central America. Since the 1960s, barred owls have been expanding their range westward from the eastern United States because man-made changes have created new suitable habitat in the West. Recent studies show urban neighborhoods can be ideal habitat for barred owls.

Using transmitters, biologists found that populations increased faster in urban settings than in old growth forest.

Reproduction

The barred owl's nest is often in a tree cavity. It may also take over an old nesting site used by a crow or squirrel. Barred owls are a non-migratory bird but may wander after the nesting season. If a nest site has proved suitable in the past, they'll often reuse it.

Eggs are laid from early-January in

the south to mid-April in the north and consist of two to four eggs per clutch. Eggs are brooded by the female with hatching taking place approximately four weeks later. Young owls fledge (begin to fly) four to five weeks after hatching. Barred owl parents will care for their young for up to four months,

foxes, opossums, and birds. Barred owls occasionally wade into water in order to capture fish or terrapins. Young barred owls practice their hunting skills by capturing insects such as grasshoppers. The barred owl hunts by waiting on a high perch or flying through the woods and swooping down on prey.



A barred owl in treatment at the Shelter. © Robin Purcell Photography

much longer than most owl species.

Sexes are alike in plumage but the female is larger. Pairs do stay together for life but if one mate is killed the remaining one will find a new mate.

Feeding Habits

Their diet consists of mice, voles, moles, rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels,

Interesting Facts

The belly feathers of some barred owls are pink. This coloring may be the result of eating a lot of crayfish.

Barred owl populations have expanded westward in the last century, in some locations into the range of the endangered spotted owl which is a close cousin of the barred owl. Hybrids of the two species (barred and spotted owls) have been found. There is some belief that barred owls are one of the factors in the decline of spotted owls.

Great horned owls are the most serious predatory threat to the barred owl. Although they often live in the same areas, the barred owl will avoid parts of its territory occupied by a great horned owl.

Of the North American owls, the barred owl is the species most likely to be active during the day, especially when raising chicks

or when food is scarce in the winter months.

Conservation

Common causes of injury include collision with cars, toxins from eating mice that were poisoned, kite string in trees, discarded fishing line, volley ball and soccer nets, and attacks from crows.

Meet Athena

Our Newest Education Ambassador

The West Sound Wildlife Shelter has added a new ambassador to our live-bird education program. In addition to Orion, the great horned owl, and Ed & Ebenezer, the crows, we are proud to introduce, Athena, the barred owl.



Athena in the Shelter's hospital.
© Robin Purcell Photography.

In March 2007, a beautiful, young barred owl was hit by a car in Port Orchard. She was less than a year old, trying desperately to make her own way in the world, and probably hunting when the car struck her. Just like human children, young owls aren't the smartest. Luckily, a caring human found her lying helpless on the side of the road. This person brought the owl to us and we immediately gave her the life-saving care she needed.

We were able to save her life, but she was damaged so badly that she'll never be able to fly again and survive in the wild. By law, we either had to euthanize her or find her a home as an educational ambassador. Because she was and is such a special owl, we decided to keep her. She has joined our team, been named Athena, and is now sharing her story and her grace with children and adults around Kitsap County.

We had a contest this past summer to name this new owl. The name "Athena" was chosen from the over 100 entries. Athena was the Greek Goddess of wisdom and was attended by an owl.

Name-the-Owl Contest Winners

The following seven people submitted "Athena," the winning name. Many thanks to everyone who participated.

Ruth Aufderheide, Bremerton
Lola Ayers, Shelton
Howard Family, Port Orchard
Lori Grove, Poulsbo
Regina Hall, Silverdale
Emily Soth, Bremerton
Conner Thompson, Bremerton

Criteria for choosing the winning name were based on the meaning of the name, ease of pronunciation, and its association with owls.

Athena needed a special enclosure built for her to live in at the Shelter. The Kiwanis Club of Bainbridge Island took on this task and built her a wonderful new home. **We and Athena are indebted to the Kiwanis Club.**

A Sister Shelter in Australia

We are proud to announce that we have become sister organizations with a wildlife shelter in Australia. This connection happened through Carly



A little eagle, which is only 18 - 21 inches in length.

Wilson, a West Sound Wildlife volunteer who is now working at a wildlife shelter in Australia.

The Australian shelter is located in Wessen Creek in the Australian Capital Territory northeast of Victoria and is an operation of the RSPCA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). The RSPCA's web site is: www.rspca-act.org.au.

The RSPCA wildlife shelter operates from a very old 1950's brick cottage that was a three bedroom home. Just like West Sound Wildlife, they depend on volunteers for a lot of the work and find it very hard to have a stable group of volunteers. There are about 40 trained volunteer carers who take animals home to complete their rehabilitation and then release the animals to their home range.



A wombat at the RSPCA wildlife shelter.

They care for all native animals and also help with the euthanasia of feral animals. They run an ambulance service for the collection of injured or orphaned native animals for those people who do not have transport. About 3,500 native animals per year are received including magpies, opossum, wombats, kangaroos, eagles, and owls.

Buy Birding Supplies and Help Us Save Lives

The Wild Bird in Poulsbo Will Donate 10% of Sales

The Wild Bird in Poulsbo has offered to donate to the Shelter 10% of its gross sales in the month of December. So please, if you intend to buy any birding supplies, please buy them at The Wild Bird in December. The Wild Bird is a family-run and independently-owned store in Poulsbo that specializes in supplies and gifts for bird watching and bird feeding.

At the Shelter, we see this as a model partnership that will help us save injured wild animals. We're strong believers in partnerships between for-profit businesses and nonprofit organizations. It's a win-win for everyone involved. The Shelter receives a substantial donation. The Wild Bird receives exposure. And the public will have a chance to buy the goods they need while simultaneously helping wild animals.

Scott Pomtier, the owner of The Wild Bird, feels likewise and is proud to be able to help the Shelter. "I've met a few of the folks from the Shelter and



have been impressed with the people as well as their mission. I had been looking for a unique way to help when I recently visited the Shelter and learned about their need for additional medical equipment."

We'll use the money raised through this partnership to partially fund the purchase of an x-ray machine. Right now, we don't have an x-ray machine. When we have patients that need x-rays, we have to take them to veterinarian offices.

The travel to and from these offices is extremely traumatic for the patients. Just imagine being a scared owl with a broken wing in our hospital. You're already quite anxious because you're in a building instead of the forest. Then suddenly you're put in a crate and driven in a noisy, shaky car while in constant

pain from your injury. Clearly this is not good for the owl.

Having our own x-ray machine will be a huge step forward in the quality of the care we provide. The x-ray machine that we want to purchase costs almost \$20,000.

Pomtier became familiar with the Shelter's work a couple of years ago and quickly realized a partnership between his store and the Shelter would make perfect sense. "The Wild Bird helps animal lovers to attract wildlife to their yards as well as provide some of the tools to observe them in their natural environment. The Shelter offers care and rehabilitation for sick and injured animals along with many wildlife-related educational opportunities. It just seemed natural for the two of us to work together."

The Wild Bird is located at 19740 7th Avenue NE, Suite B in Poulsbo. It's on the far west side of the Albertson's strip mall, next to the Taprock Northwest Grill. You can find more information about the The Wild Bird at www.thewildbird.net.

Donation Form - Help us Save Lives

Yes, I want to help save lives! I'm making a donation in the amount of \$ _____.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Payment Method

- Enclosed is my check (payable to "West Sound Wildlife")
- Please bill my Visa Mastercard AMEX

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Name on card: _____

Billing address (if different): _____

Mail this form to 7501 NE Dolphin Drive, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 or call Kol at 206-855-90957 to use your credit card over the phone.

Or make your donation online at www.westsoundwildlife.org.



A raccoon at the Shelter.
© Robin Purcell Photography.

2008 Patient Report

As a wildlife hospital, our philosophy is simple and mirrors that of a human hospital: Every life is a life worth saving. While we're not able to save all of our patients, we save hundreds of them each year and provide others with a calm, painless passing.

2007 was the Shelter's busiest year ever, with a record (for us) 650 patients, from 6 different counties, including 409 birds, 238 mammals, and three reptiles. But 2008 has surpassed 2007. At the time this newsletter went to press, we'd had 702 patients, over 10% more than at this time last year.

Below we present details about our patients treated this year through November 15, 2008. This is the community's wildlife shelter, and we want the community to know what we're doing.

SPECIES TREATED			
Auklet, Cassin's (sc)	Eagle, Bald	Murre, Common (sc)	Sparrow, American Tree
Bat, Big Brown	Falcon, Perigrine	Nighthawk, Common	Sparrow, Fox
Bat, Little Brown	Finch, House	Nuthatch, Red breasted	Sparrow, Song
Bat, Silver-haired	Flicker, Northern (red & yellow shafted)	Opossum, Virginia	Sparrow, species (unidentified)
Bird baby, species (unidentified)	Goldfinch, American	Osprey	Squirrel, Douglas
Chickadee, Black-capped	Goose, Cackling	Otter, River	Squirrel, Eastern Gray
Chickadee, Chestnut-breasted	Goose, Canada	Owl, Barred	Squirrel, Northern Flying
Chipmunk, Townsend's	Grosbeak, Black-headed	Owl, Great horned	Starling, European
Cormorant, Brandt's (sc)	Gull, Glaucous-winged	Owl, Northern Saw Whet	Swallow, Barn
Cormorant, Double-crested	Gull, species (unidentified)	Pheasant, Ring-necked	Swallow, Cliff
Cowbird, Brown-headed	Gull, Thayer's	Pigeon, (Rock Dove)	Swallow, Tree
Coyote	Hawk, Coopers	Pigeon, Band-tailed	Swallow, Violet Green
Crossbill, Red	Hawk, Red-tailed	Quail, California	Thrush, Swainson's
Crow, American	Heron, Great Blue	Rabbit, Black-tailed Jackrabbit	Thrush, Varied
Deer, Black Tailed	Heron, Green Back	Rabbit, Eastern Cottontail	Tortoise
Dove, Ringneck	Hummingbird, Anna's	Rabbit, species (domestic)	Towhee, Spotted
Dove, Morning	Hummingbird, Rufous	Raccoon	Turtle, Red-eared slider
Dove, Ring-neck	Jay, Stellers	Rat, Wood	Vole, species (unidentified)
Duck, Bufflehead	Junco, Dark-eyed	Raven, Common	Warbler, Orange-crowned
Duck, Mallard	Killdeer	Robin, American	Warbler, species (unidentified)
Duck, Muscovie	Kingfisher, Belted	Sapsucker, Red-breasted	Waxwing, Cedar
Duck, Red-breasted Merganser	Kinglet, Golden-crowned	Sapsucker, Red-napped	Weasel, Short-tailed
Duck, Wood	Mink	Sapsucker, Yellow-Billed	Woodpecker, Downy
	Mouse, Deer	Shrew	Woodpecker, Pileated (sc)
		Siskin, Pine	Wren, House & Wren, Winter

2006 - 2008 Monthly Patient Intake Totals

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	total
2006	10	3	15	43	109	101	97	84	38	24	21	25	570
2007	17	20	19	81	84	105	112	95	46	24	29	18	650
2008	25	20	25	68	153	101	134	105	45	14			

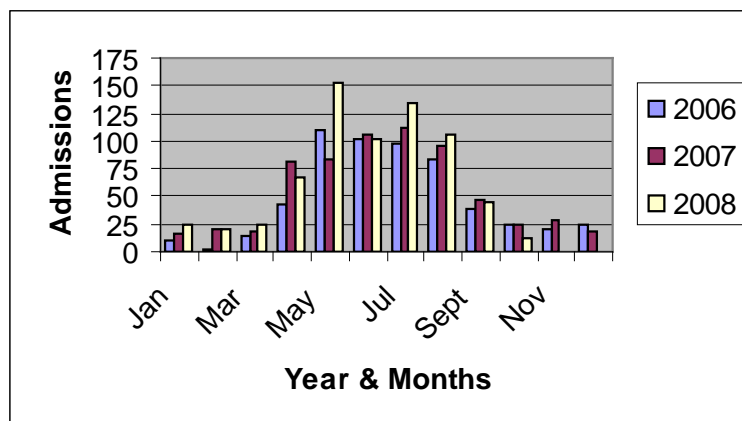
2007/2008 Mammal and Bird Totals Through Nov. 1 of Each Year

2008

Birds (400)
Mammals (287)
Reptile (3)
Total: 690 (released = 47%)

2007

Birds (369)
Mammals (221)
Reptiles (2)
Total: 592 (released = 43%)



Special Thanks

A special thanks to you and all of the wonderful people and businesses whose donations year after year allow this wildlife hospital and education center to exist. The following supporters deserve special recognition for their efforts over the last three months.

Organizations, Corporations & Foundations

Bainbridge Island Kiwanis Club • Kitsap Audubon Society • Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island • Town & Country Markets • Bainbridge Community Foundation • Seattle Foundation • One Call for All • Soirée Catering

In-Kind Donations

Robin Purcell Photography • All Creatures Animal Hospital, Drs. Little, Pinto, Kruger & Cross • Ridgetop Animal Hospital, Dr. Cage • Dr. Christina Pettan-Brewer • Winslow Animal Clinic, Dr. Christine Susumi • Dr. Scott Ford • Motive Marketing Group • Skiff Point Guesthouse • Island Fitness • Bloedel Reserve

Monthly Giving Plan

Joe and Karla Piecuch • Kathy and Mark Butwell



The Shelter is a proud participant in Bainbridge Island's One Call for All, the "red envelope campaign." Please help us save the lives of local wild animals by donating to the Shelter through One Call for All.

Winter Wildlife Watching

October - March

Hundreds of Bald eagles gather to feast on salmon:

- Olympic National Park – coastline (mid-November – late February)
- San Juan Islands National Historic Park (mid-November – late February)
- Skagit River (Rockport) (late October – mid March)

December 14 – January 5

Christmas Bird Count

Contact your local Audubon to participate. Kitsap Audubon especially needs help in Seabeck and Bangor. Contact Gene Bullock at 360-394-5635 or bullockg@earthlink.net.

Late December - mid February

Bald Eagle Festival (Upper Skagit River in Rockport)

December

Great horned owls begin to nest. Listen for the calls.

February 13-16, 2009

Great Backyard Bird Count

Please consider certifying your yard as a wildlife habitat with the National Wildlife Federation at <http://www.nwf.org>.

Wish List

You can help give injured wildlife a second chance at life by donating the items listed below. Collecting items in your community is a great project for kids, groups, classrooms, and clubs and a simple, fun, and rewarding way to help wildlife. Donations are tax deductible. For questions contact Mike Pratt at mike@westsoundwildlife.org or 206-855-9057, ext. 3.

General Animal Care Supplies

Gift Cards (hardware's, feed stores, pet stores)
Tool/utility shed
Tools of all sorts (hand & power)
Bird seed
Ensure (vanilla)
Baby food (chicken & chicken)
Esbilac (puppy milk replacer) - powder
KMR (kitten milk replacer) -

powder
Cleaning brushes, sponges
Household Clorox bleach
"Dawn" liquid detergent (original)
Laundry detergent & liquid hand soap
Zip-lock bags & large trash bags (45 gal)
Towels (hand & bath size) & sheets
Duct tape, masking tape, cable ties

Toilet paper & paper towels
Astro Turf
Packaged pine or corn cob shavings
Bird baths, ceramic bowls, kiddie pools
Nolvasan (Chlorhexidine) Disinfectant
Artificial Christmas trees
Brooms, dust pans

Rescue & Rehabilitation Equipment

Video surveillance equipment
Gasoline gift cards and Phone Cards
Heating pads (non automatic shut-off)
Latex disposable gloves & dust masks
Rubbing Alcohol & cotton balls
Syringes - 1cc
Bandage items (Vet wrap, gauze pads/ wrap)
Counter top refrigerator

Floor air dryers
Control/Capture Poles (3-4 ft) (\$80-\$115)
Syring Pole (16"-36") (\$35-\$50)
Animal protection Gloves (\$30-\$130)
Dart Rifle (\$500)
Have-a-heart live traps
Batteries (AA, AAA, C, and D)
Weather alert radio

Caging

Chain-link dog kennels
Fiberglass shelter/vet caging units
Corrugated clear plastic roofing 2x4 & 4x4, plywood, dowels, conduit
Indoor screened songbird cage - (\$80)

Educational Programs

PowerPoint Projector
Wildlife books for Shelter library